United Nations A/70/202

General Assembly

Distr.: General
27 July 2015

Original: English

Seventieth session
Item 133 of the provisional agenda*
Programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015

United Nations Office for Partnerships

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly decisions 52/466 and 53/475, wherein the Secretary-General was requested to inform the Assembly, on a regular basis, about the activities of the United Nations Office for Partnerships. It supplements the information contained in the previous reports of the Secretary-General (A/53/700 and Add.1, A/54/664 and Add.1-3, A/55/763 and Corr.1, A/57/133, A/58/173, A/59/170, A/60/327, A/61/189, A/62/220, A/63/257, A/64/91, A/65/347, A/66/188, A/67/165, A/68/186 and A/69/218).

The United Nations Office for Partnerships serves as a gateway for public-private partnerships in furtherance of the Millennium Development Goals. The Office oversees the following areas:

United Nations Fund for International Partnerships (UNFIP). UNFIP was established in 1998 to serve as the interface between the United Nations Foundation and the United Nations system. At the end of 2014, the cumulative allocations as approved by the United Nations Foundation for UNFIP projects to be implemented by the United Nations system reached approximately $1.36 billion. Of this amount, it is estimated that $0.45 billion (about 33 per cent) represents core Turner funds and that $0.91 billion (about 67 per cent) was generated from co-financing partners. The total number of United Nations projects and programmes supported as at the end of 2014 by the United Nations Foundation through UNFIP stands at 563. Collectively, these projects are implemented by 43 United Nations entities in 124 countries.

* A/70/150.

15-12218 (E) 050815

Please recycle

United Nations Democracy Fund. The Fund was established by the Secretary-General in July 2005 to support democratization around the world. It focuses on strengthening the voice of civil society, promoting human rights and ensuring the participation of all groups in democratic processes. Through the Fund, the Office has channelled approximately $145 million to more than 540 projects in over 120 countries around the world, ranging from strengthening civil society leadership skills and promoting the participation of women and youth, to media programmes allowing civil society to project its voice.

Partnership advisory and outreach services. The Office for Partnerships provides these services in response to demand from the United Nations system, Governments and non-State actors in pursuing public-private partnerships, through high-impact events and advice to potential partners regarding opportunities and good practices to promote the Millennium Development Goals and the overall post-2015 development agenda as a framework for action.

Contents

		Page
I.	United Nations Fund for International Partnerships	4
	A. Global health	5
	B. Women, girls and population	7
	C. Energy and climate	8
	D. Advocacy, communication and other development-related issues	10
II.	United Nations Democracy Fund	12
	A. Eighth round of funding	12
	B. Donor base	13
	C. Evaluation	13
	D. Governance	14
	E. Ninth round of funding	14
	F. Democracy in action	14
III.	Partnership advisory and outreach services	15
	Selection of key projects and initiatives	16
	1. Member States	16
	2. United Nations system and other international organizations	16
	3. The private sector and civil society	17
IV.	Conclusions	18
Annexes		
I.	United Nations Fund for International Partnerships: distribution of funds and projects	19
	A. Cumulative allocations approved by the United Nations Foundation, 1998-2014, distributed by implementing partners	19
	B. Thematic distribution of projects approved by the United Nations Foundation, 1998-2014	19
II.	Projects approved by the United Nations Foundation in 2014 and in prior years, by programme area	20
III.	Composition of the Advisory Board of the United Nations Fund for International Partnerships in 2014	21
IV.	Financial contributions to the United Nations Democracy Fund, by donor, as at 31 December 2014	22
V.	Composition of the Advisory Board of the United Nations Democracy Fund in 2014	24

I. United Nations Fund for International Partnerships

1. The United Nations Fund for International Partnerships (UNFIP) was established in 1998 to serve as the interface between the United Nations Foundation and the United Nations system. The work of UNFIP is overseen by the UNFIP Advisory Board, which is chaired by the Deputy Secretary-General.

2. As at 31 December 2014, the cumulative allocations approved by the United Nations Foundation for UNFIP projects reached more than $1.36 billion, out of which $0.45 billion (about 33 per cent) comes from core Turner funds and $0.91 billion (about 67 per cent) was generated as co-financing from other partners. Since the Fund's inception, 563 projects have been implemented or are under implementation by 43 United Nations entities in 124 countries. During the course of 2014, the United Nations Foundation approved projects totalling $56.8 million, the majority ($53.8 million) focused on global health. The selection of projects and initiatives supported by the United Nations Foundation through UNFIP is highlighted in this report.

New Revised and Restated Relationship Agreement between the United Nations and the United Nations Foundation

3. The United Nations Foundation was founded by Ted Turner as a grant-making private Foundation which aimed to demonstrate the value of investing in the United Nations, encourage other sectors to work with the United Nations, and promote strong United States leadership at the United Nations.

4. The United Nations Foundation's activities have since evolved from primarily grant making to resource mobilization, as well as advocacy and building of major communication campaigns and cross-sector partnerships in support of United Nations goals. The original Relationship Agreement between the United Nations and the United Nations Foundation, as established in 1998 and subsequently renewed in 2007, was therefore revised and amended to ensure that it reflects the evolved mission of the United Nations Foundation's collaboration with the United Nations.

5. The new Revised and Restated Relationship Agreement was signed on 23 October 2014. The Agreement renews the partnership for an additional 10-year period. Under the terms of the new Relationship Agreement, the United Nations and the United Nations Foundation are to consult more closely and coordinate on activities being undertaken. A Joint Coordinating Committee, established under the new Agreement, is the principal forum to ensure strong and timely communication and coordination. The Committee is co-chaired by the United Nations and the United Nations Foundation and has an equal number of members from each organization.

Support for innovative partnerships, campaigns and initiatives

6. The United Nations Foundation has been collaborating with the United Nations to foster innovative partnerships, campaigns and initiatives to secure better and healthier lives for people across the globe by focusing on global health; women, girls and population; and energy and climate. The United Nations Foundation has also been committed to advancing the work of the United Nations by expanding its support base with a focus on the United States and informing the public and policymakers on the work of the Organization.

A. Global health

7. Enhancing the United Nations health agenda globally has been one of the United Nations Foundation's main objectives. The United Nations Foundation leverages its expertise, resources and experience to help the United Nations to address global health priorities, including delivering life-saving vaccines and anti-malaria nets, harnessing mobile technologies to improve public health, empowering women and girls with the tools to plan their families and have safe pregnancies, and preventing domestic air pollution by providing clean cookstoves to families.

8. The United Nations Foundation, together with UNFIP, has worked in close collaboration with the Office of the Secretary-General, the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) to support a number of key global health campaigns and initiatives working to eliminate preventable diseases such as polio, measles, rubella and malaria.

9. The United Nations Foundation has also collaborated closely with the United Nations to build strong support among multi-stakeholder partners for Every Woman, Every Child, the innovative global movement launched by the Secretary-General during the Millennium Development Goals Summit in September 2010. This movement aims to end all preventable deaths of women, children and adolescents and ensure their well-being.

Every Woman, Every Child

10. The United Nations Foundation continued to support Every Woman, Every Child, which mobilizes commitments and action by Governments, multilateral organizations, the private sector and civil society to address the major health challenges facing the most vulnerable women and children. The movement puts into action the Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health, which presents a road map on how to enhance financing, strengthen policy and improve service on the ground. With guidance and leadership from the Every Woman, Every Child Health Team in the Executive Office of the Secretary-General, the United Nations Foundation manages global advocacy and communications and provides outreach to the private sector around this movement.

11. Little attention has been paid to the role that access to energy plays in influencing the quality, availability and safety of essential reproductive, newborn and child health services. In this context, the United Nations Foundation provided WHO, through UNFIP, with a $100,000 grant in 2014 to address energy needs in health-care facilities in five Sub-Saharan African countries. In addition to conducting a baseline analysis, the project will support the development of a framework and tools for linking energy access considerations to the quality of health-care services provided to women and children and associated health outcomes.

Measles, rubella and polio

12. While easily preventable with vaccines, measles still causes death and disability among children worldwide. The Measles and Rubella Initiative is a global partnership, launched in 2001, committed to reducing measles deaths and limiting

the number of children born with congenital rubella syndrome. The Initiative is led jointly by WHO, UNICEF, the American Red Cross, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the United Nations Foundation. The Initiative aims to advance the Global Measles and Rubella Strategic Plan 2012-2020 by helping countries to increase vaccination coverage for measles, rubella and other preventable diseases; fund, plan, implement and monitor quality supplementary campaigns; investigate outbreaks and provide technical and financial support for effective disease surveillance and outbreak response.

13. The United Nations Foundation has been a long-standing supporter of the Measles Initiative (renamed the Measles and Rubella Initiative in 2012) and continues to play an important role as both an advocate and fiduciary for the Initiative. During 2014, a total of $51 million was disbursed by the United Nations Foundation through UNFIP to UNICEF and WHO in support of the Measles and Rubella Initiative activities around the world.

14. The United Nations Foundation has also supported the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, which includes WHO and UNICEF as core partners. In 2000, the United Nations Foundation was a founder of the Initiative's Polio Advocacy Group, which provides strategic advice, oversight and accountability, and mobilizes resources to support the polio eradication effort.

Nothing But Nets campaign

15. Nothing But Nets is a global grassroots campaign to raise awareness and funding to fight malaria through the provision of life-saving bednets and other malaria interventions. The Nothing But Nets online giving platform allows for citizens around the world to join the fight against malaria by purchasing and sending a bednet to malaria-affected communities.

16. Nothing But Nets works primarily with UNICEF, WHO and UNHCR to purchase insecticide-treated bednets and distribute them to affected countries in Africa. Net distributions are typically part of a wider public health effort within a country coordinated by the Ministry of Health, the United Nations and other local and international organizations.

17. Since the campaign's launch in 2006, the United Nations Foundation has built up a network of champions, supporters and partners from around the world, including the NBA Cares initiative of the National Basketball Association, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Junior Chamber International, and the MLS WORKS initiative of Major League Soccer.

18. The estimated cost to purchase and deliver an insecticide-treated bednet, provide education on its proper use, and provide other malaria reduction interventions, is about $10. During 2014, the United Nations Foundation disbursed over $1,123,000 through UNFIP to support the distribution of insecticide-treated bednets and other malaria interventions by UNICEF and UNHCR in Chad, Cameroon and Madagascar.

Shot@Life campaign

19. Global coordinated immunization efforts have made significant progress, particularly in reducing cases of measles and polio. Building on the successful outcomes of the Measles and Rubella Initiative and the Global Polio Eradication

Initiative, the United Nations Foundation created the Shot@Life campaign in 2011 to raise awareness and resources to immunize children in developing countries against diseases such as measles, polio, pneumonia and rotavirus.

20. In 2014, the United Nations Foundation continued its partnership with Walgreens, the largest pharmacy chain in the United States, to raise awareness and help to provide vaccines to children in developing countries through the Get a Shot. Give a Shot campaign. Starting in September 2014, for every vaccine administered in the United States at Walgreens pharmacies, an amount equivalent to the price of one vaccine was donated to the campaign. During 2014, the United Nations Foundation disbursed, through UNFIP, $107,000 mobilized partially from the Shot@Life campaign to support the global measles immunization initiative led by WHO and UNICEF.

Assistance to Ebola-affected countries

21. At the request of United Nations partners, the United Nations Foundation set up a dedicated fund in direct response to the Ebola outbreak in West Africa in 2014 to enable individuals, companies and civil society to directly support United Nations entities in the outbreak response.

22. Those funds enabled the United Nations Foundation to provide, through UNFIP, a grant of $1,551,500 to WHO to procure necessary supplies to assist Governments in the management of Ebola cases, as well as to provide technical assistance to Governments of affected countries, including field coordinators, epidemiologists, and other relevant experts.

B. Women, girls and population

23. Empowering and addressing the needs of women and girls is key to alleviating poverty, achieving social justice, and enhancing the progress of the global development agenda. Lack of adequate education and family planning services leads to the persistence of chronic poverty, high child and maternal mortality, early marriage, vulnerability to exploitation and a diminished voice in public life.

24. Over the past years, the United Nations Foundation has worked with United Nations partners, including UNFPA, UN-Women, UNICEF and UNHCR, to promote gender equality, improve maternal health care, advance sexual and reproductive health and rights, advocate for stronger support for rights of adolescent girls, and eliminate gender-based violence.

Family Planning 2020

25. Family Planning 2020 is a global partnership that supports women's and girls' access to reproductive health care. It engages Governments, civil society, multilateral organizations, donors, the private sector, and the research and development community in order to provide girls and women with an opportunity to use contraceptives by 2020.

26. Family Planning 2020 has its roots in the London Summit on Family Planning held in 2012, at which more than 20 Governments lent their support and announced their commitments to address the policy, financing, delivery and socio-cultural barriers to women accessing contraceptive information, services and supplies.

27. UNFPA and the Gates Foundation are co-chairs of the Family Planning 2020 initiative, and the United Nations Foundation was asked to serve as the secretariat. The initiative's work is aligned with the Secretary-General's Every Woman, Every Child movement.

Girl Up campaign

28. In September 2010, in response to calls by UNFPA and other United Nations organizations for intensified efforts to address the needs and rights of adolescent girls, the United Nations Foundation launched Girl Up, an innovative advocacy and fundraising campaign that empowers adolescent girls. To date, the Girl Up campaign has mobilized more than half a million advocates and disbursed through UNFIP about $3.6 million for adolescent girl empowerment programmes managed and implemented by United Nations agencies in Ethiopia, Guatemala, Liberia and Malawi.

29. During 2014, the United Nations Foundation disbursed through UNFIP almost $900,000 to UNICEF and UNHCR to support projects advancing the education of Somali refugee girls in Ethiopia and the rights of adolescent girls in Guatemala, including strengthening mechanisms for protection against gender-based violence.

30. In addition to contributions from individuals, the Girl Up campaign has been supported by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Levi Strauss, Johnson & Johnson, American Express, Caterpillar Inc., and the Angelica Fuentes Foundation, among others.

C. Energy and climate

31. Since its inception, the United Nations Foundation has been working closely with the United Nations to help to achieve progress towards a safer, cleaner, more equitable and climate-friendly energy future. The United Nations Foundation has championed action on a range of global climate and energy issues, especially through its support of Sustainable Energy for All, the initiative launched by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and co-led by the President of the World Bank, Jim Kim.

32. In 2014, in support of the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the United Nations Foundation worked with United Nations partners on helping to ensure that the science of climate change would be communicated to and understood by a wide global audience.

Sustainable Energy for All

33. The Sustainable Energy for All initiative seeks to mobilize action from all sectors of society in support of the three interlinked objectives to be achieved by 2030, namely, ensuring universal access to modern energy services; doubling the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency; and doubling the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix.

34. The General Assembly has recognized the importance of this objective on several occasions — it designated 2012 as the International Year of Sustainable Energy for All and then declared 2014-2024 the Decade of Sustainable Energy for All. Sustainable energy has also been a widely accepted pillar of the post-2015 development agenda as the General Assembly prepares a new set of global goals.

35. In 2014, the United Nations Foundation continued its commitment to supporting the achievement of the three-year milestones set out in the initiative's work programme, and ultimately the initiative's 2030 objectives. Specifically, the United Nations Foundation provided a grant of $400,000 to the Sustainable Energy for All secretariat, through UNFIP, in support of the initiative's strategic work programme.

United Nations climate strategy and 2014 Climate Summit

36. On 23 September 2014, the Secretary-General hosted a Climate Summit at United Nations Headquarters to engage public and private sector leaders to catalyse action to reduce emissions, increase climate resilience and mobilize political will for an ambitious climate agreement by 2015.

37. The United Nations Foundation collaborated closely with the Department of Public Information in advance of the Summit to bolster its media engagement strategy. In close coordination with the United Nations, the United Nations Foundation developed media partnerships with 12 organizations to increase global coverage of the Summit.

38. In order to support collaboration between the United Nations and civil society organizations on climate, the United Nations Foundation organized regular civil society meetings in New York to help to ensure that civil society organizations would help to make the Climate Summit a success, in part by contributing commitments to climate action. To help to engage media, bloggers and civil society organizations, the United Nations Foundation also produced a digital media zone at the Climate Summit. This granted more than 50 high-level bloggers and leaders of civil society organizations access to climate experts and encouraged them to cover the Summit in real time, amplifying the messages and reach.

39. In addition, in 2014 the United Nations Foundation provided, through UNFIP, almost $180,000 to strengthen the capacity of the Climate Change Support Team in the Executive Office of the Secretary-General to design and manage collaborative climate change solutions with the private sector.

40. Finally, the United Nations Foundation joined numerous public and private partners in pledging to contribute to expanded global actions to accelerate energy efficiency through the Global Energy Efficiency Accelerator Platform, launched at the 2014 Climate Summit.

Engaging weathercasters as climate change communicators

41. In 2014, the United Nations Foundation provided $20,000, through UNFIP, to the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) to help to strengthen the engagement of weathercasters and presenters at the 2014 Climate Summit. WMO, in collaboration with the Government of Denmark, the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Department of Public Information, and national meteorological services, organized the following initiatives:

- A global workshop for 80 weathercasters and presenters in Paris.
- A conference supporting media coverage of climate change by leading meteorologists from around the world during the Climate Summit.

– The launch of 20 "weather reports from the year 2050" to promote the Climate Summit in New York and the twentieth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, held in Lima in December 2014.

Through these efforts, the threat of climate change was communicated in new and innovative ways, and the above-mentioned initiatives helped to inform the general public on the issue.

Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves

42. The Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves is a public-private partnership hosted by the United Nations Foundation to save lives, improve livelihoods, empower women, and protect the environment by creating a thriving global market for clean and efficient household cooking solutions. The Alliance has a 10-year goal to foster the adoption of clean cookstoves and fuels in 100 million households by 2020. The Alliance is working with a network of public, private and non-profit partners to help to overcome the market barriers that currently impede the production, deployment and use of clean cookstoves in developing countries.

43. In 2014, United Nations Foundation made a grant of $100,000 to WHO to support the development of a clean household energy planning tool that policy makers can use in addressing household fuel combustion.

D. Advocacy, communication and other development-related issues

44. In close cooperation with the United Nations system, the United Nations Foundation continued to provide much valued assistance to the United Nations in terms of the advocacy and communication platforms it has built over the years to tell the Organization's story and engage new partners to support the United Nations work. These platforms include the Social Good Summit, Talk Radio Day at the United Nations, United Nations press fellowships, and ongoing press round tables to complement the more formal press briefings that occur at the United Nations, as well as issue-specific communications and media work in global health, girls and women, and energy and climate as noted above.

45. The United Nations Foundation's communications efforts during 2014 have focused on working with the United Nations on outreach and advocacy around the Climate Summit, as discussed above; the 500-day countdown mark for the Millennium Development Goals; the Social Good Summit; and public consultation and discussions around the post-2015 global goals.

Accelerating achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and supporting the post-2015 agenda

46. On 18 August 2014, the 500-day mark leading to the end of 2015, the United Nations Foundation worked with the United Nations to create a 500-minute conversation across multiple social media platforms to raise awareness about progress made on the Millennium Development Goals. This global, digital storytelling event provided an opportunity for both the United Nations and the global non-governmental organization community to share success stories of the Millennium Development Goals while calling for increased efforts and attention by

Governments and the private sector. The online conversation included global audiences from 65 countries. To complement this effort, the United Nations Foundation created a social media toolkit with issue-specific messaging for each Goal that participants used to share with their networks.

47. The United Nations Foundation has helped to build relationships with journalists in order to strengthen their capacity to cover United Nations issues and the post-2015 process by broadening their knowledge of United Nations issues and access to United Nations experts through press fellowships, specialized briefings and trips to view the Organization at work. During 2014, the United Nations Foundation engaged more than 75 journalists in areas ranging from climate change to global health, peacekeeping and sustainable energy.

The fifth annual Social Good Summit

48. The fifth annual Social Good Summit was held on 21 and 22 September 2014 in New York with the overarching theme "Connecting for good, connecting for all (#2030NOW)". The purpose of the Summit was to engage new audiences during the high-level segment of the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly, focusing on how technology and social media can be used to improve the world. The discussions featured a number of experts from the United Nations system who addressed a wide range of issues, from global health to social justice. Through the partnership between the United Nations Foundation and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Summit was broadcast online in seven languages, reaching 159 million people worldwide.

49. In addition to the Summit, the United Nations Foundation, in collaboration with UNDP, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the Case Foundation, Cisco, Mashable, the Rockefeller Foundation, among others, set up the +SocialGood online platform, which allows people around the world to engage in conversations related to the Social Good Summit.

50. Furthermore, the Summit engaged over 700 journalists and bloggers via its digital media lounge.

Support for the sixty-fifth annual Department of Public Information/ Non-Governmental Organizations Conference

51. The United Nations Foundation assisted the Department in convening the Department of Public Information/Non-Governmental Organizations Conference, which was held at United Nations Headquarters from 27 to 29 August 2014, on the theme "2015 and beyond: our action agenda". The event provided an opportunity for civil society, international networks and activists from around the world to develop an "action agenda" in the lead-up to the launch of intergovernmental negotiations, at the beginning of the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly, for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda.

Global Pulse: big data for development

52. The Secretary-General launched Global Pulse in 2009 to support the United Nations system in generating more timely information to track and monitor the impacts of socio-economic crises, and exploit the opportunities offered by big data. Global Pulse is an inter-agency initiative designed to contribute to the "Delivering

as one" approach to strengthen the capacity of Governments to measure development effectiveness and attainment of the Millennium Development Goals.

53. Since its inception, Global Pulse has led United Nations system efforts to understand how big data may contribute to a post-2015 data revolution and has established expertise in the emerging field of big data for development. The initiative has built a substantial network of development and private-sector partners to advance its innovation efforts, and it has assumed a prominent advocacy role to highlight innovation by others in the field.

54. Global Pulse partners with experts from United Nations agencies, Governments, academia and the private sector to research, develop and mainstream approaches for applying real-time digital data to development and humanitarian challenges. This initiative of the Secretary-General views big data as a global public good and aims to improve development and humanitarian outcomes by driving the adoption of the methodologies, tools and policies needed to harness big data safely and responsibly.

55. In 2014, the United Nations Foundation disbursed almost $645,000 through UNFIP to support the mission and programmatic work of Global Pulse.

II. United Nations Democracy Fund

56. The United Nations Democracy Fund was established during the 2005 World Summit as a Secretary-General's Trust Fund and launched in April 2006, with the United Nations Office for Partnerships/UNFIP providing administrative support and resource-sharing. Since then, the grant-making body has become clearly defined as a fund for civil society organizations. It is the only United Nations entity that has the word "democracy" in its name; the only United Nations body with the primary purpose of supporting democracy through empowering civil society; and one of the youngest entities in the United Nations system. The large majority of project funds go to local civil society organizations in countries in both the transition and consolidation phases of democratization. By supporting the "demand" rather than the "supply" side of democratization, the Fund plays a new, distinct and unique role in complementing and enhancing the United Nations more traditional work — the work with Governments — to strengthen democratic governance around the world.

57. In the short years since its creation, the Fund has experienced considerable growth in its portfolio, its donor base, its impact and its visibility. Its projects aim to strengthen the voice of civil society, promote human rights, and encourage the participation of all groups in democratic processes. It also supports a number of major global and regional projects with a normative and policy focus. In its first eight rounds of funding, the Fund supported more than 540 projects in over 120 countries, with a total disbursement of more than $145 million. They ranged from supporting civil society efforts for accountability and transparency to building capacity for strengthening good governance and the rule of law.

A. Eighth round of funding

58. The eighth round of funding came amid upheavals in several parts of the world. Both civil society groups and the media continued to face growing pressures

and restrictions, and the closing space for civil society became an alarming feature in a range of countries on several continents. The role of popular movements on the one hand and military intervention on the other was hotly debated, with no global consensus on either. At the same time, apathy among the disenchanted and disempowered threatened to become an insidious and increasingly stubborn enemy of democracy.

59. Against this background, the Fund received 2,062 project proposals for its eighth round, reflecting continued high demand for support from the Fund. The proposals originated from organizations in 133 countries, the vast majority local non-governmental organizations in Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean. This response added further to the considerable growth the Fund has experienced since its creation in 2005.

60. The project selection in the eighth round of funding placed a deliberate emphasis on the media, with almost 40 per cent of selected projects operating in this field. This reflected both a recognition of the media's revolutionizing impact in democratization processes, and the need to safeguard its freedom in the face of growing threats and pressures in several countries and regions.

61. In the eighth round, 49 projects were funded at a total cost of $9,455,000. As defined by their key activities, the projects broke down as follows:

Media (38 per cent)

Community development (18 per cent)

Youth (16 per cent)

Rule of law and human rights (12 per cent)

Strengthening instrumentalities of government (6 per cent)

Tools (6 per cent)

Women's empowerment (4 per cent)

B. Donor base

62. The cumulative total amount of contributions received from 2005 to 2014 exceeded $160 million. The number of donor countries rose to 41, as Libya joined the list of contributors for the first time.

C. Evaluation

63. The Fund's contracted firm of internationally renowned evaluators, Transtec, had completed over 125 post-project evaluations by the end of 2014. The vast majority of the evaluations were positive, while also providing valuable lessons learned for the Fund's knowledge management. The Fund published all post-project evaluations on its public website, as decided by its Advisory Board. In this way, it consolidated its position as one of the most transparent entities in the United Nations system.

D. Governance

64. The two governing mechanisms of the Fund, the Advisory Board and the Programme Consultative Group, continued to play an active and guiding role during 2014. In addition to recommending funding proposals for the Secretary-General's approval, the Advisory Board provided him with policy guidance on the development of programme frameworks and funding guidelines. The Programme Consultative Group provided input and quality control in the project selection process and implementation phase, making use of the specific expertise of each of its entities: the Department of Political Affairs, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Peacebuilding Support Office, UNDP, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and UN-Women.

E. Ninth round of funding

65. The United Nations Democracy Fund launched its ninth round for project proposals in November 2014. When applications closed on 31 December 2014, the Fund had received 2,331 project proposals. The vast majority of applications came from local or regional civil society organizations in Africa, Asia, the Americas, the Arab region and Eastern Europe. In accordance with the annual timetable adhered to by the Fund, ninth round applications were to be assessed by March 2015 and the Advisory Board was to recommend a short list in May, after which the Fund was to advise Permanent Missions of Member States in which listed projects were to be implemented. The short list was then to be submitted to the Secretary-General for approval. Short-listed applicants were to be asked to submit draft project documents by mid-year, to be negotiated with the Fund, and the first tranches of project funding were to be disbursed by September — again in a time line comparing favourably with international standards.

F. Democracy in action

1. A school of democratic procedures for self-governance bodies in all regions of Ukraine

66. In Ukraine, a project funded by the United Nations Democracy Fund works to increase the transparency and accountability of local self-governance by introducing parliamentary procedures in the daily work of selected local councils in all regions of the country, including the east. Under the project, representatives of 24 local authorities, one for each region of Ukraine, attend a School of Democratic Rules and Procedures. Participants work for the adoption of amendments to the regulations of the relevant local authorities to introduce parliamentary procedures and democratic rules — enabling councils to broadcast their sessions on the Internet. By bringing together representatives from all the regions of Ukraine, the School of Democratic Rules and Procedures also advances the concept of holding organized inclusive and peaceful political debate.

2. Empowering indigenous communities in Bolivia through basic legal identity documents

67. In Bolivia, the United Nations Democracy Fund funds a project in the La Paz and Oruro departments, to assist in legally and politically empowering indigenous communities. It is doing so by providing them with basic legal identity documents, prerequisites for democratic participation which many of them have lacked in the past; strengthening their knowledge and capacity to participate in democratic processes and exercise their rights; and improving access to basic legal documents and rights for all, through evidence-based advocacy aimed at institutional change. The project is also setting up a network of rural facilitators to act as focal points for establishing outlets for legal advice, and to run legal campaigns on how to obtain the necessary documentation. As important, the project encourages debate between traditional leaders and government officials in networking meetings and a forum.

3. Upholding the rights of communities and miners amid exploitation of mineral resources in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

68. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, a project funded by the United Nations Democracy Fund works to uphold the economic, social and cultural rights of local communities and traditional miners in relation to the exploitation of mineral resources. The project conducts advocacy for legal reform; dissemination and explanation of legal texts; awareness-raising on rights and obligations among community leaders, the judiciary, and mine administration officials; support for victims of rights violations; organizing of traditional mine diggers; and monitoring of human rights related to the exploitation of natural resources.

III. Partnership advisory and outreach services

69. The United Nations system has collaborated with the private sector, academia and civil society for a number of years. In the 2005 World Summit Outcome (General Assembly resolution 60/1), Member States recognized the importance of, and expressed strong support for, the active engagement of non-State actors in promoting the development agenda of the United Nations system.

70. The United Nations Office for Partnerships works in close collaboration with the United Nations Foundation to engage non-State actors, such as global corporations, philanthropic foundations and civil society organizations to advance United Nations objectives.

71. To promote the Millennium Development Goals and the emerging sustainable development goals, the Office partners with the United Nations programmes and agencies, Member States, the private sector and non-governmental organizations to convene high-impact events and provides advice to potential partners regarding collaborative opportunities and good practices.

72. In 2014, a wide range of companies, foundations and non-governmental organizations approached the United Nations Office for Partnerships to explore opportunities for engagement with the United Nations and offer assistance to pool expertise and resources to address issues on the United Nations agenda. They sought advice on how to specifically partner with the United Nations to advance the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and to learn about collaborative

opportunities related to the emerging post-2015 development agenda. The majority of non-State actors offered assistance in programmes focused on the empowerment of women and girls, education, humanitarian health crises and the use of innovative technologies to tackle poverty.

Selection of key projects and initiatives

73. The following list of key partnership initiatives is divided into three partner categories: (1) Member States, (2) United Nations system and other international organizations, and (3) the private sector and civil society.

1. Member States

Permanent memorial at the United Nations to the victims of slavery and the transatlantic slave trade

74. The United Nations Office for Partnerships continued to support the permanent memorial project and administer the Trust Fund account in relation to receipts, allocations and disbursements of the resources. As at 31 December 2014, the total contributions received were $1,832,622, primarily from Member States. The permanent memorial, entitled *Ark of Return*, was designed by Mr. Rodney Leon, and was unveiled by the Secretary-General and the President of the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly, Mr. Sam Kutesa, at a ceremony at United Nations Headquarters on 25 March 2015.

Resilience by design event and exhibit

75. On 2 December 2014, the United Nations Office for Partnerships, the Permanent Missions of the Philippines and Portugal and the Open Online Academy jointly convened a conference and exhibit to highlight crowd-sourced projects for resilient schools and emergency shelters for areas affected by natural disasters and wars. Harnessing the network of the online community, the event featured representatives from the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Global Pulse and the Urban Risk Lab at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology to develop solutions to assist Governments in building resilient architecture for vulnerable communities around the world.

2. United Nations system and other international organizations

Equator Prize 2014

76. On 22 September 2014, the United Nations Development Programme held the biennial Equator Prize award ceremony at Lincoln Center in New York. The Equator Prize recognizes leadership by indigenous and local communities working to meet climate and development challenges through sustainable solutions. The United Nations Office for Partnerships assisted UNDP in identifying key partners from the private sector, the creative community and civil society organizations to financially support and speak at the event.

World Toilet Day

77. On 19 November 2014, UN-Water and the Permanent Mission of Singapore hosted an event to observe World Toilet Day at United Nations Headquarters. The

United Nations Office for Partnerships assisted UN-Water and the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council with media messaging and engagement strategy for a panel discussion on the theme "Open defecation and the challenges for women and girls". Over 2,500 media outlets from around the world featured stories relating to this issue.

3. The private sector and civil society

International Women's Day forum

78. On 4 March 2014, the Business Civic Leadership Center of the United States Chamber of Commerce Foundation and the United Nations Office for Partnerships jointly convened the annual forum on the occasion of International Women's Day at United Nations Headquarters. The forum, on the theme "Turning inspiration into action: next steps for the private sector to empower women globally", brought together business and civil society leaders dedicated to the economic empowerment of women and emphasized the importance of a vision and a commitment to action in achieving results. The forum highlighted the many economic challenges faced by women and girls and how catalytic partnerships between public and private sector organizations are vital in overcoming them.

Media for Social Impact Summit

79. On 11 April 2014, the PVBLIC Foundation and the United Nations Office for Partnerships jointly convened the inaugural Media for Social Impact Summit to highlight the power of the media to drive social change. The Summit gathered United Nations representatives and leading media companies and creative agencies to showcase social good campaigns and provide opportunities for participants to share experiences and inspire new initiatives in advancement of the United Nations objectives.

Social Innovation Summit 2014

80. On 28 and 29 May 2014, the United Nations Office for Partnerships and Landmark Ventures jointly convened the biannual Social Innovation Summit at JP Morgan Chase and at United Nations Headquarters. The two-day event brought together public and private sector leaders to present innovative partnerships and to discuss the role of social and technological innovation in advancing sustainability, as well as creating better livelihood opportunities for youth.

Global Accelerator

81. On 10 June 2014, the United Nations Foundation and the Department of Public Information, in collaboration with the United Nations Office for Partnerships, convened the Global Accelerator event to engage entrepreneurs in United Nations objectives and the post-2015 development agenda. The event gathered over 100 entrepreneurs and high-level United Nations officials to seek innovative and sustainable solutions to challenging development objectives.

Changing lives through mobile

82. On 19 June 2014, the United Nations Office for Partnerships and ChangeCorp co-convened a conference on the theme "Changing lives through mobile: innovation

in emerging markets". Mobile learning has gained increasing momentum in the past few years as successful business models have been created around the world. The Conference gathered telecommunications industry representatives, non-governmental organizations involved in mobile learning and government officials representing emerging markets to showcase several leading mobile for development initiatives being implemented by or with telecommunications operators. The event presented the opportunities and challenges for development in the following tracks: health; women's empowerment; skills training and youth; smart cities; reporting; and mobile money.

Blouin Creative Leadership Summit

83. On 23 and 24 September 2014, the Louise Blouin Foundation, in collaboration with the United Nations Office for Partnerships, convened the ninth annual Blouin Creative Leadership Summit at the Museum of Modern Art in New York. The Summit, created in 2006, is a forum that encourages dialogue and exchange of ideas and best practices to confront global challenges. The 2014 Summit discussions brought together government officials, business executives, entrepreneurs, technology innovators, scholars and artists to address topics such as global governance, education, democracy, the environment and culture.

IV. Conclusions

84. Mr. Turner's historic philanthropic contribution through the United Nations Foundation and UNFIP has greatly increased the interest of civil society, citizens and other stakeholders, including foundations and private companies, in engaging with the United Nations.

85. The United Nations Democracy Fund is now 10 years old and has proved to be an excellent initiative by the General Assembly. It has successfully complemented the work of many United Nations agencies that concentrate on the "supply" side of democratic institutions by focusing on the "demand" side through grants to local civil society organizations.

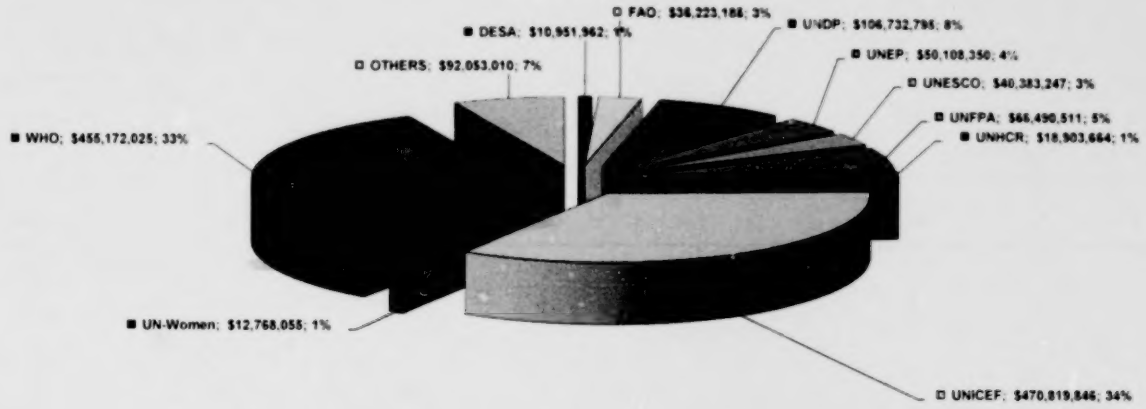
86. The operations of UNFIP and the United Nations Democracy Fund remain the core work of the United Nations Office for Partnerships. The Office has continued to host innovative high-impact events and provide advisory services to a wide range of Member States, as well as external stakeholders who seek to partner with the United Nations system.

Annex I

United Nations Fund for International Partnerships: distribution of funds and projects

A. Cumulative allocations approved by the United Nations Foundation, 1998-2014, distributed by implementing partners

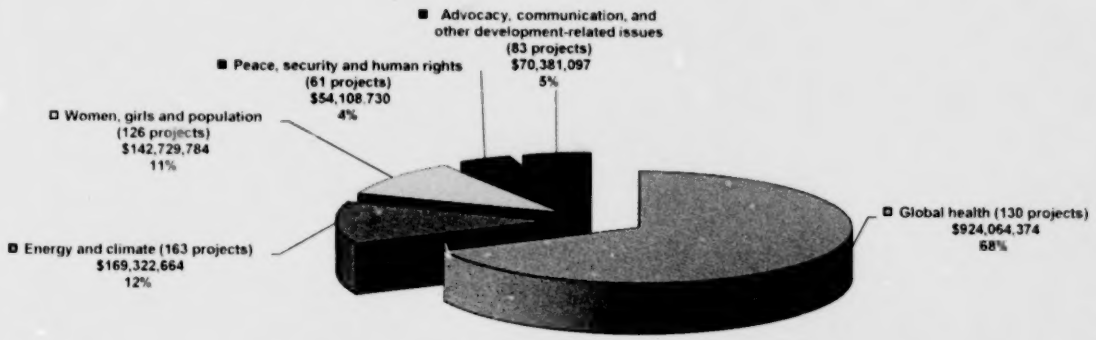
($1,360,606,649)



Abbreviations: DESA, Department of Economic and Social Affairs; FAO, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; UNDP, United Nations Development Programme; UNEP, United Nations Environment Programme; UNESCO, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization; UNFPA, United Nations Population Fund; UNHCR, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees; UNICEF, United Nations Children's Fund; UN-Women, United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women; WHO, World Health Organization.

B. Thematic distribution of projects approved by the United Nations Foundation, 1998-2014

($1,360,606,649)


Advocacy, communication, and other development-related issues (83 projects) $70,381,097 5%
Peace, security and human rights (61 projects) $54,108,730 4%
Women, girls and population (126 projects) $142,729,784 11%
Energy and climate (163 projects) $169,322,664 12%
Global health (130 projects) $924,064,374 68%

Annex II

Projects approved by the United Nations Foundation in 2014 and in prior years, by programme area

(United States dollars)

	1998-2013		*2014*		*1998-2014*	
Programme area	*Number of projects*	*Value*	*Number of projects*	*Value*	*Number of projects*	*Value*
Global health	124	870 279 306	6	53 785 068	130	924 064 374
Energy and climate	158	168 602 054	5	720 610	163	169 322 664
Women, girls and population	124	141 780 195	2	949 589	126	142 729 784
Peace, security and human rights	61	54 108 730	0	–	61	54 108 730
Advocacy, communication, and other development-related issues	77	69 012 508	6	1 368 589	83	70 381 097
Total	**544**	**1 303 782 793**	**19**	**56 823 856**	**563**	**1 360 606 649**

Annex III

Composition of the Advisory Board of the United Nations Fund for International Partnerships in 2014

Mr. Jan Eliasson, Deputy Secretary-General (Chair)

Ambassador Abdou Salam Diallo, Chair of the Second Committee of the General Assembly (until September 2014)

Ambassador Sebastiano Cardi, Chair of the Second Committee of the General Assembly (since October 2014)

Ambassador Martin Sajdik, President of the Economic and Social Council

Ms. Susan M. Davis, President and Chief Executive Officer, BRAC USA

Mr. Luis A. Ubiñas, former President of the Ford Foundation

Mr. Bruce Usher, Faculty Director, Social Enterprise Program, Columbia Business School

Mr. Yukio Takasu, Under-Secretary-General for Management

Mr. Wu Hongbo, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs

Mr. Roland Rich (member, ex-officio), Officer-in-Charge, United Nations Office for Partnerships (until June 2014)

Ms. Ann de la Roche (member, ex-officio), Officer-in-Charge, United Nations Office for Partnerships (since July 2014)

Annex IV

Financial contributions to the United Nations Democracy Fund, by donor, as at 31 December 2014

(United States dollars)

Donor	*Cumulative contribution received*
Argentina	20 000
Australia	9 212 424
Bulgaria	10 000
Chile	340 000
Croatia	71 000
Cyprus	5 000
Czech Republic	195 780
Denmark	265 018
Ecuador	5 000
Estonia	10 395
France	4 793 716
Georgia	24 943
Germany	15 115 188
Hungary	75 000
India	31 562 543
Iraq	5 000
Ireland	658 724
Israel	57 500
Italy	2 947 800
Japan	10 180 000
Latvia	15 000
Libya	10 000
Lithuania	49 332
Madagascar	5 000
Mongolia	10 000
Morocco	5 000
Panama	27 000
Peru	64 348
Poland	612 276
Portugal	150 000
Qatar	10 000 000
Republic of Korea	1 000 000
Romania	422 860
Senegal	100 000
Slovenia	127 924

Donor	*Cumulative contribution received*
Spain	5 043 312
Sri Lanka	5 000
Sweden	16 023 635
Turkey	235 000
United Kingdom	609 350
United States of America	51 876 000
Other	2 230
Total	**161 948 298**

Annex V

Composition of the Advisory Board of the United Nations Democracy Fund in 2014

Member States

Austr ia

Bhutan

Chile

El Salvador

Germany

India

Latvia

Libya

Poland

Sierra Leone

Suriname

Sweden

United States of America

Non-governmental organizations

Action Aid International

Avaaz

Individuals

Ms. Aracelly Santana

Ms. Marjorie Tiven

Mr. Jeffrey Wright